(b) whether private traders are assisting in making available the desired production line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary there is an increase in Value of Issues over the last three years and the trend is expected to continue during the current year also.

(b) and (c) It is not possible to carry out all the activities in-house and out sourcing from private industry whether necessary is resorted to particularly for raw materials and semi-finished/finished components.

Casualties during Kargil Operation

2154. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of casualties during Kargil operation, officers and other ranks separately;

(b) the number of officers and other ranks seriously injured separately; and

(c) the proportion of officers killed and seriously injured as compared with earlier encounters of similar nature with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The number of Armed Forces personnel killed during the Kargil conflict is as follows:

	Army	Air Force	Total
Officers	26	3	29
Other ranks	493	2	495

(b) The number seriously injured is as follows:

Officers	62	Nil	62
Other Ranks	1287	Nil	1287

(c) No meaningful comparison of the casualties of the Kargil conflict with those of the wars with Pakistan in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 is possible, as the intensity, duration and the Armed Forces personnel deployed in these wars were different.

Pending of Pension Cases of Soldiers

†2155. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of pending cases for pension of disabled, retired and dead soldiers of Indian Defence Forces, as on 30th November, 1999; pension office-wise;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.